

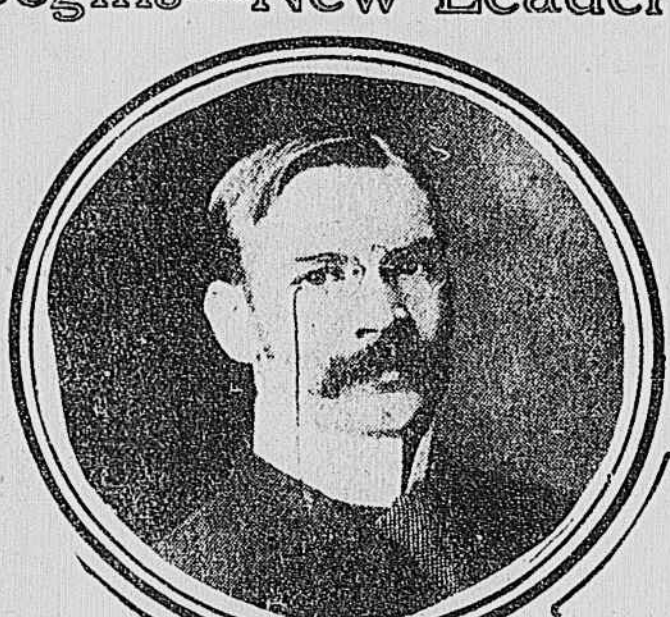
# Unique Congress Will Convene Tuesday---New Rules Under Which Board Will Be Laid When Game Begins---New Leaders



JAMES HAY (VIRGINIA).



CHAIRMAN HENRY, Rules.



FITZGERALD (NEW YORK).



CHAIRMAN UNDERWOOD, Ways and Means.



PADGETT (TENNESSEE).

BY JOHN ELLFRETTH WATKINS.  
Washington, D. C., April 1, 1911.  
This new Congress of ours, which with great éclat and loud beating of drums, is to take possession of the Capitol Tuesday next will be the eleventh since the Civil War that has had one or both houses dominated by the anti-administration party.

With a Republican skipper upon the bridge, a Democratic engineer in charge of one of the paddle wheels and a Republican engineer working the other, how will the old craft of state weather it during the next two years? Will she just spin around in a circle, or will she make some headway upstream, though with zigzag courses?

You have been thinking about the veto power, that cat-o'-nine-tails which Skipper Taft will hold over his mixed crew. You have been recalling how Captain Cleveland, when first in command, used this weapon more than 200 times upon a crew in a cabin that was divided against itself. And you are wondering whether the crew that is now to sign for the coming cruise can afford a mutiny to the extent of passing laws "over the veto."

Prospect of Defying the Veto.  
The Democratic conquest of the House was described last fall as a "landslide," but Speaker Clark's partisans lack a two-thirds vote in the Democratic House by thirty-five, and it requires two-thirds of both houses to carry a measure over the President's veto. The gazetteers are telling you that in the coming session the House will contain one Socialist, 133 Republicans and 226 Democrats, but one new Representative, whom they class as Democratic, was read out of the majority party by a caucus vote, and this member, Theron Akers of the Saratoga, N. Y. district, has announced his return to the Republican fold, in which he was wont to ramble in his palmy days. Yet on some measure the new Socialist member, Victor Berger of Milwaukee—the first of his tribe to enter the House—may vote with the Democrats. It will be mighty interesting to see where this native of Austria-Hungary selects his seat—whether on the Republican or Democratic side—when the blindfolded page draws his number during the coming week.

But to get back to the veto business: The Democrats, as we saw, lack thirty-five of the two-thirds necessary to pass a bill over the executive kibosh. But how about the insurgents and near-insurgents? Would they be able to muster the necessary thirty-five if they saw the need of joining the Democrats in defying the White House? That is a question which only time can answer, and one which arouses speculations now vexing statesmen of both parties.

Where Insurgents Have Balance of Power.  
But granting that they do deliver these thirty-five "ayes," there is your Senate to deal with—your Senate, which will have forty-two Democrats

to fifty Republicans. Here the insurgents will hold the balance of power. 'Tis true, but not enough votes, by a long shot, to pass a measure over a veto. So there will be no purely partisan measures passed over the Taft disapproval by both houses, even after the proposed new States add more Democrats to the Sixty-second Congress.

In this matter of having one house of Congress opposed to him politically, Mr. Taft is but confronted by a situation which faced Grant, Hayes, Arthur, Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison and then Cleveland again.

And some pretty rows were precipitated by these mid-administration splits in Congress. Thus, the Democratic House, when came to plague Grant in the middle of his last term,

appointed upward of fifty committees to investigate the executive departments, and after they had filled tons of paper with testimony, Secretary of War Belknap was impeached for accepting graft from a post trader, but was acquitted of the charge. Grant, during this Congress, vetoed twenty-one acts, including a bill to reduce his salary back to \$25,000, and another to increase the amount of greenbacks to \$400,000,000. The Republican Senate, taking sides with the Democratic House, helped to pass three acts over his veto. Then came Hayes, with a bill which passed the House silver—

one which he promptly vetoed, as he

proceeded to put raw wool, cotton, cotton ties, cotton bagging and other things on the free list, but the Republican Senate saved him the pains of delivering a veto. Then Cleveland returned to face the old mid-term squabble, the Republican House tinkering with the tariff some more, and raising schedules which the opposing Senate promptly killed. And now came a repetition of the set-to of Arthur's time. The rivers and harbors bill was vetoed, but passed over the veto by the aid of the minority, which hunkered after the "pork barrel" as greedily as did members of the majority.

Memory of these squabbles between Presidents and opposing wings of Congress is what makes old-timers nervous about the coming sessions.

But the merry war now upon us opens under unique conditions. Those House opposers, who since the war, had the House opposed to them, politically could deal, each, with a Speaker whose rule was nearly absolute—who could appoint all committees to suit his fancy, who was chairman, creator and absolute ruler of the Committee on Rules, which from 1855 until the Congress which passed had always been the "sacred committee of five," which determined what bills were to be killed and what taken up, also how much time was to be devoted to debate on either side.

But in the coming Congress Mr. Taft will have to deal with a Speaker who will appoint no standing committees whatever, who cannot be even a member of the Committee on Rules, and, outside of his power of recognizing members who wish to speak, will be vested only with the power of keeping order. The caucus of his party has already nominated a Committee on Ways and Means and vested it with the Speaker's former power of selecting the majority membership of committees, even of that on rules, which has already been nominated. And all of these states will have to be submitted to the House for final selection. The Republicans will similarly nominate their minority members of these committees.

The Speakers who ruled the opposition House under Grant, Hayes, Arthur, Cleveland and Harrison, after selecting the men who were to frame bills, told their two party colleagues and appointees on the Committee on Rules which of these bills were to be hurried through, and their will was law.

With Whom Will Taft Deal?  
But if Mr. Taft wishes now to compromise with the Democrats on what measure he will approve, with whom will he confer? Speaker Clark? We have just had a glimpse of his meagre powers. No committee chairman will feel beholden to him for his selection nor will any committee member, Chairman Underwood? All of the new House leaders will owe their places to him and his thirteen Democratic colleagues on the Committee of Ways and Means; but what can he do without the say-so of the chairman and majority of the particular committee involved, and what can the latter do without the say-so of Chairman Henry and his five Democratic brothers on the Committee on Rules, which, due to the Republican insurgent uprising in the last Congress, has expanded from five to ten members?

Thus will the board be set when the game opens during the coming week, and now let us look at the pieces and pawns.

Next to Oscar Underwood, of Alabama, the chairman of Ways and Means, the biggest men on the floor will be Robert Lee Henry, of Texas, and Fitzgerald, of New York, chairman of the Rules and Appropriations committees. Henry, who will be forty-seven this spring, was named after

the Confederate commander-in-chief when the Civil War was in its third year.

He was a valetudinarian of his class in the Southwestern University of Texas, is a lawyer and the only member of Congress who ever ruled as Mayor of his city. This burg was Texarkana, a half of which lies in his native Texas and the other half in Arkansas. His rule having been free from friction with the Arkansas Mayor, who held sway across the invisible State line, he was promoted to Assistant Attorney-General. He was elected to Congress when thirty-three, Fitzgerald, who has represented a district of his native Brooklyn for a dozen years, is just past thirty-nine, and will be by far the best Democratic parliamentarian upon the floor. He conducted the successful Democratic filibuster against certain bills at the end of the last session. In the Democratic caucus which initiated the new rules he fought tooth and nail the scheme of taking the appointment of committees away from the Speaker. As chairman of the Appropriations Committee he will occupy the position from which Joseph G. Cannon stepped directly to the Speaker's throne. His committee will hold the pursestrings of the nation and have charge, upon the floor, of six of the big supply bills.

The great army bills, always carrying millions, will be in charge of Jas. Hay, of Virginia, the prospective chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. He is fifty-five, is a native Virginian, an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania and a lawyer. He came to the House thirteen years ago, after serving in both branches of his State Legislature. Next to Champ Clark he was the Democrat most seriously considered for the speakership.

Another big leader will be the chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, the pilot of the great naval appropriation bills as they pass through the House, carrying millions upon millions of dollars. The man slated for this berth is Lemuel P. Padgett, of Tennessee, who, like Hay, is fifty-five, a lawyer, and a former State legislator.

Will Engineer Important Bills.  
Railway legislation in the next House will be in charge of William C. Adamson, of Georgia. It, as expected, he leads the chairmanship of the in-

terstate Commerce Committee. What he does not know about "common carriers" is not worth knowing, for he was one when, as a boy, he hauled cotton into Atlanta. He was a local judge before coming to Congress thirteen years ago. The big bills carrying millions for the pensions of Union veterans will probably be in charge of a Confederate veteran, William Richardson, of Alabama, who after being severely wounded at Chickamauga, served as State legislator and county judge. He succeeded General Joe Wheeler when he died, ten years ago. All of these chairmanships are subject to the final confirmation of the Democratic caucus, early in the coming week.

For the first time in more than seventeen years Democrats are now to fill the big clerical offices in the House wing of the Capitol, and probably the names of the lucky aspirants will be published the same day on which this article appears. The sergeant-at-arms and clerk of the House will receive \$6,500 apiece; the doorkeeper, \$5,000; the ten official reporters and stenographers who report debates, \$5,000 each; the chief clerk, journal clerk, postmaster and two reading clerks, \$1,000. Pay in the house has been generous during the last generation. The six men who take legislators and visitors up and down the stairs get \$1,200; the House locksmith, \$1,200; the "assistant in charge of bathroom," \$1,400, and the scores of messengers anywhere from \$1,180 to \$1,400 while the chaplain draws \$1,200.

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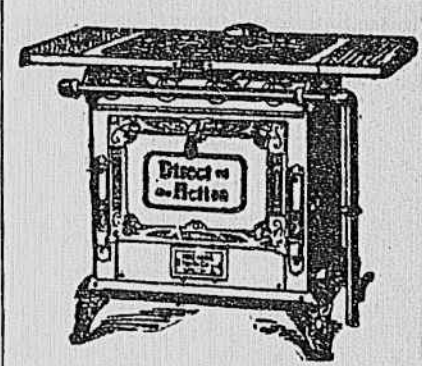
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the Confederate commander-in-chief when the Civil War was in its third year.

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